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LETTER DATED 3 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 April 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, informing you that on 2 April 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft destroyed Iraq's main oil pumping station which serves the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal, with the aim of interrupting the pumping of oil and hampering the application of the memorandum of understanding concerning the oil-for-food programme, and calling upon the Security Council to consider this serious act of aggression and take appropriate action in response to it.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 2 April 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour formally to inform you that the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom have just committed a further act of criminal aggression against Iraq.

On Friday, 2 April, at 1815 hours, United States and United Kingdom warplanes flying out of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bombed Iraq's main oil pumping station serving the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal, which is a facility of the South Oil Company of Iraq and is situated at Hamdan, in the area of Abi Al-Khasib, in Basrah Governorate.

This cowardly aggression by the United States and the United Kingdom has resulted in the destruction of the station in question. It will escape no one that the aim of this cowardly act of aggression is to interrupt the pumping of Iraqi crude oil to the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal, in southern Iraq, as part of an attempt to hamper the application of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Republic of Iraq and the United Nations relating to the oil-for-food-and-medicines programme and to destroy Iraqi civilian infrastructure as part of a criminal United States and United Kingdom plan to perpetuate military aggression against Iraq quietly and with a minimum of fanfare, as several United States officials have described it.

Apart from constituting a serious threat to security in the Gulf, these acts of aggression undermine what remains of the existing system of international relations based mainly on the Charter of the United Nations.

While holding the United States and United Kingdom Governments internationally responsible for these acts of aggression and all their consequences, the Government of the Republic of Iraq calls upon you, Sir, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the current month, to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council in order that they may learn of the unjust and repeated acts of aggression perpetrated against Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom and in order that the Council may take up this serious situation, for silence concerning the acts of aggression of which Iraq is a victim can in no way serve to justify such acts.

The silence about the illegal and unwarranted acts against Iraq not only masks an unjust aggression but, above all, it also clears the way for all potential aggressors to attack any country jealous of its independence and sovereignty which refuses to accept the odious hegemony of the United States.

The pursuit of the United States and United Kingdom aggression, which relies on brute force and the law of the jungle, means beyond a shadow of a doubt that any independent and sovereign country and Member of the United Nations can at any moment be the target of unjust aggression, as has happened to Iraq.

The Charter of the United Nations clearly spells out the Security Council's responsibility in a case where a Member State is the target of overt aggression.

We await the measures which the Security Council may deem fit to take in response to this unjust act of aggression perpetrated against Iraq by the United States and the United Kingdom.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Iraq